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FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JERUSALEM TEL AVIV BEIRUT FROM
AMMAN 02 APR 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJ: JORDANIAN DECREES RE TRAVEL AND BANK PERSONNEL
IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: JERUSALEM 0316

1. ACCORDING TO AMMAN WEEKLY AS- SABAH, GOJ SOON WIL ISSUE
ORDER CANCELLING ALL RESTRICTIONS ON WEST BANK VISITS
WHICH IMPOSED LAST JANUARY. (THIS ALSO PREDICTED BY GOJ MINISTER
IN CONVERSATION PAST WEEK.) PAPER ATTRIBUTES FORTHCOMING
DECISION TO APPEAL BY HEBRON MAY JA' BARI, WHO HAD SENT
MESSAGE TO " SUPREME AUTHORITIES" IN AMMAN NOTING WEST
BANKERS' LOYALTY TO UNITY OF BOTH REGIONS AND DAMAGE
WHICH PRESENT RESTRICTIONS CAUSING. JA' BARI ALSO REQUESTED
REPEAL OF RECENT DECISION REQUIRING BANK EMPLOYEES IN OCCU-
PIED TERRITORIES TO TRANSFER TO AMMAN INSTITUTIONS OR RE-
SIGN; HE ALSO SATED IN LETTER THAT PROPOSED WEST BANK
UNIVERSITY WILL BE INDIVISIBLE PART OF JORDAN UNIVERSITY.
IN SEPARATE NEWS ITEM, AS- SABAH REPORTED THAT SEVERAL AMMAN
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BANKS ALREADY HAVE TOLD EMPLOYEES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO TRANSFER TO AMMAN OR FACE BEING FIRED. INSTITUTIONS INCLUDE ARAB LAND BANK, CAIR O- AMMAN BANK, AND BRITISH BANK OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. EMBOFF HOPES TO SEE HIGH- LEVEL DIWAN OFFICIAL WITHIN DAY OR TWO AND WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS OBTAINED. PENDING CLIALS, COMGEN RENNIE AND KONTOS DURING THEIR CALLS HERE, IT APPEARS GOI AND UNRWA HAVE HAD FREQUENT EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON ISSUE OF NAMES AND NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WORKING IN ISRAEL, WITH EACH SIDE ATTEMPTING PLACE ONUS ON THE OTHER FOR TAKING MEASURES TO REDUCE UNRWA' S RATION ROLLS. FROM OUR CONTACTS WE SEE DIALOGUE HAS DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS: GOI HAS NOTED INCREASING PROSPERITY AMONG LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WORKING IN ISRAEL AND HAS URGED UNRWA TO SCREEN AND PRUNE ITS RATION ROLLS. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE SCREENING PROPOCESS UNRWA HAS ASKED GOI FOR LISTS OF NAMES OF WORKERS WHO OBTAINED JOBS IN ISRAEL THROUGH OFFICIAL LABOR EXCHANGES AND THOSE EMPLOYED BY MILITARY GOVT IN OCCUPIED AREAS. GOI HAS REPLIED THAT IT HAS LISTS OF THESE " OFFICIAL" WORKERS BUT DOES NOT HAVE NAMES OF " UNOFFICIAL" WORKERS IN ISRAEL WHO OBTAINED JOBS HERE " ILLEGALLY" BY NOT GOING THROUGH LABOR EXCHANGES.

3. MFA OFFICIALS STATE OIT DOES NOT WISH TAKE WHAT IT FEELS IS POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE STEP OF APPEARING TO PUNISH THOSE WHO REGISTERED THEMSELVES AS WORKING IN ISRAEL AND WHO THUS ARE COOPERATING WITH GOI, BY GIVING ONLY THEIR NAMES TO UNRWA WHICH WOULD CUT OFF THEIR RATIONS AND NOT GIVING UNRWA NAMES OF THOSE WHO DID NOT REGISTER THEMSELVES. AT SAME TIME GOI PROBABLY DOES NOT WANT TO DISCOURAGE " ILLEGAL" WORKERS WHO ARE NEEDED HERE BY IN EFFECT MAKING THEM CHOOSE BETWEEN REGISTERING OR NOT WORKING IN ISRAEL. THEREFORE, GOI HAS SO FAR DECLINED PROVIDE ONLY PARTIAL LIST REFUGEES WORKING IN ISRAEL. HOWEVER, GAZA UNRWA DIRECTOR GEANEY EARLY THIS YEAR TOLD EMBOFF HE RECEIVED FROM GOI LIST OF REFUGEES WHO ARE REGISTERED AS OWNING MOTOR VEHICLES AND WAS ABLE TO REDUCE RATION ROLLS BY 3,000.

4. AS EMB REPORTED IN TEL AVIV 2779, GOI DISTRUSTS ABILITY OF UNRWA TO SCREEN ITS RATION ROLLS PROPERLY. THIS MISTRUST SEEMS JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF JERUSALEM 372. GOI SEE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS FOR GOI TO SCREEN ALL REFUGEES ITSELF TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE FULLY EMPLOYED EITHER IN ISRAEL OR LOCALLY AND CONSEQUENTLY CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THEMSELVES. GOI ALSO FEELS IT CAN

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PROVIDE JOBS FOR ALL REFUGEES ABLE TO WORK. GEANEY TOLD EMBOFF SOME TIME AGO THAT GOI HAD OFFERED TO WORK JOINTLY WITH UNRWA/ GAZA IN SCREENING REFUGEES, BUT HE FELT THIS WOULD INFRINGE UPON UNRWA' S MANDATE. BEIRUT' S CLARIFICATION OF UNRWA' S POLICY IN THIS REGARD MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

5. AS WE REPORTED IN TEL AVIV 2779 THERE ARE GOI OFFICIALS WHO ARE READY AND WILLING FOR GOI TO TAKE OVFR ALL UNRWA' S OPERATIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES NOW. HOWEVER MFA OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOI POLICY REALIZE ANY SUCH DRASTIC MOVE WOULD REDOUND TO GOI' S DISADVANTAGE FROM FOREIGN RELATIONS VIEW. QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER
USG SHOULD PRESSURE GOI TO RELEASE PARTIAL LIST OF REFUGEES WORKING IN ISRAEL. EMB FEELS END RESULT IN SUCH ACTION MIGHT WELL PROVE HARMFUL TO US INTERESTS, FOR PROBABLY GOI WOULD FIND WAY TO PLACE ONUS ON USG FOR ITS TAKING ACTION TO ELIMINATE REFUGEES FROM RATION ROLLS. IN OUR VIEW BEST POLICY WOULD BE FOR US TO URGE UNRWA TO COMPROMISE ON ITS POSITION AND PERMIT GOI SOME MEASURE OF PARTICIPATION IN SCREENING PROCESS WHILE UNRWA RETAINS ULTIMATE DECISION WHETHER INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES ARE CUT FROM ROLLS.
ZURHELLEN

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